

# Civil Affairs makes a difference in Dikhil District



Story and photos by Cpl. G. Lane Miley

**DIKHIL, Djibouti** – Members of the Army's 412<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion headed out across the rugged landscape here from Camp Lemonier to speak with the commissioner of the Dikhil District Feb. 23.

The soldiers left the camp to conduct a pre-deployment site survey, confident that Commissaire Moussa Djama Gueddi would accept their offer for an upcoming Medical Civic Action Program and a Veterinarian Civic Action Program in Mouloud.

"They were really receptive and very appreciative of us and our efforts," said Capt. Mark A. Canada of the commissioner and the village chief from nearby Mouloud. "They were more than happy for us to set up shop for them."

Canada said when the soldiers set up, the MEDCAP and VETCAP will be co-located. This gives people the ability to have their animals and themselves treated instead of having to choose he said. Canada, a Crystal City, Mo., native said Gueddi even offered a local veterinary technician to assist with the VETCAP.

"We appreciate the offer of a host nation vet and look forward to working with him," said Canada, a

critical care nurse and civic action team leader.

Gueddi also pledged some of his local policemen and local doctors.

The 412<sup>th</sup>'s civic action teams provide the locals with VETCAPs and MEDCAPS, but the civil affairs teams are the ones who actually meet with local leaders and assess the needs of their people.

Capt. Andrew Rocky Raczkowski, a civil affairs team leader assigned to the Dikhil District, said he has dealt with Gueddi before and enjoys working with him.

"I have met with him three or four times and he is a very straightforward person," said Raczkowski. "He tells you what he needs and what his district needs. He's the kind of person we want to deal with."

Gueddi told Raczkowski of a problem he was facing on an engineering project that the civil affairs team contracted. The team leader said he would do his part to appease the problem.

Raczkowski said the team accomplished a lot in a very short time. The Farmington Hills, Mich., native said this is important because Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa has recently extended its boundaries into other regions here.

"We are dealing with an increased operational

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(Top Left) Capt. Andrew Rocky Raczkowski, a civil affairs team leader assigned to the Dikhil District, peers into a well here. He assesses its depth and if there is anything his team can do to better the well's output or otherwise help the village. (Above) Members of the Army's 412<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion met with Commissaire Moussa Djama Gueddi, commissioner for the Dikhil District here Feb. 23. The soldiers conducted the pre-deployment site survey to offer Gueddi a Medical Civic Action Program and a Veterinarian Civic Action Program in nearby Mouloud on Feb. 27 and 28